

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A knife sharpener apparatus comprising:  
a clamping mechanism operable to secure a knife blade; and  
at least one infinitely adjustable guide rod coupled to the clamping mechanism to adjust a sharpening angle of the knife sharpener apparatus, said guide rod being coupled to said clamping mechanism by a structure including an element which bears nonuniformly against a side of said guide rod.
2. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 1, wherein the clamping mechanism comprises a first clamp member coupled to a second clamp member.
3. (Currently amended) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 1, wherein ~~the at least one infinitely adjustable guide rod is threaded~~ said clamping mechanism defines a plane and is operable to secure a knife blade aligned substantially with said plane, said guide rod extending at least to said plane defined by said clamping mechanism.
4. (Previously presented) A knife sharpener apparatus comprising a clamping mechanism operable to secure a knife blade and at least one infinitely adjustable guide rod coupled to the clamping mechanism to adjust a sharpening angle of the knife sharpener apparatus, wherein the at least one infinitely adjustable guide rod is not threaded.
5. (Previously presented) A knife sharpener apparatus comprising a clamping mechanism operable to secure a knife blade proximate a distal end of said clamping mechanism and at least one infinitely adjustable guide rod coupled to the clamping mechanism to adjust a sharpening angle of the knife sharpener apparatus, wherein the clamping mechanism includes a first aperture and a second aperture, each said aperture operable to couple to the at least one infinitely adjustable guide rod, the distance from said first aperture to said distal end being greater than the distance from said second aperture to said distal end, wherein moving the at least one infinitely adjustable guide rod from said first aperture to said second aperture changes a sharpening angle of the knife sharpener apparatus.
6. (Previously presented) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 5, wherein said first and second apertures are located on a top portion of a clamp member.

7. (Previously presented) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 5, wherein said first and second apertures are located on a side portion of a clamp member.
8. (Previously presented) A knife sharpener apparatus comprising a clamping mechanism operable to secure a knife blade and at least one infinitely adjustable guide rod coupled to the clamping mechanism to adjust a sharpening angle of the knife sharpener apparatus, further comprising at least one lock set to set a position of the guide rod.
9. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 1, wherein the infinitely adjustable guide rod includes an integral guide loop.
10. (Previously presented) A knife sharpener apparatus comprising a clamping mechanism operable to secure a knife blade and at least one infinitely adjustable guide rod coupled to the clamping mechanism to adjust a sharpening angle of the knife sharpener apparatus, further comprising an infinitely adjustable guide loop coupled to the infinitely adjustable guide rod.
11. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a guide block to secure the infinitely adjustable guide loop to the infinitely adjustable guide rod.
12. (Previously presented) A knife sharpener apparatus comprising a clamping mechanism operable to secure a knife blade and at least one infinitely adjustable guide rod coupled to the clamping mechanism to adjust a sharpening angle of the knife sharpener apparatus, further comprising a swivel block to facilitate rotation of the infinitely adjustable guide rod towards the clamping mechanism.
13. (Original) A knife sharpener apparatus comprising:  
a first clamp member;  
a second clamp member coupled to the first clamp member, the first and second clamp members operable to secure a knife blade there between;  
a first guide rod coupled to the first clamp member; and  
a first infinitely adjustable guide loop coupled to the first guide rod to adjust a sharpening angle of the knife sharpener apparatus.

14. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a second guide rod coupled to the second clamp member.

15. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a second infinitely adjustable guide loop coupled to the second guide rod.

16. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 14, wherein a height of the first guide rod and a height of the second guide rod are adjustable.

17. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 14, wherein a height of the first guide rod and a height of the second guide rod are infinitely adjustable.

18. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 13, wherein a height of the first guide rod is infinitely adjustable.

19. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 13, wherein at least one of the first clamp member and the second clamp member includes a plurality of apertures located therein to adjust a sharpening angle of the knife sharpener apparatus.

20. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first guide rod is foldable with respect to the first clamp member.

21-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) A knife sharpener apparatus comprising:

a clamping mechanism operable to secure a knife blade proximate a distal end of said clamping mechanism, said clamping mechanism having a first clamp member and a second clamp member, wherein at least one of the first and second clamp members includes a first aperture and a second aperture, the distance from said first aperture to said distal end being greater than the distance from said second aperture to said distal end, said knife sharpener apparatus further comprising a guide rod secured to one of said apertures, wherein moving said guide rod from said first aperture to said second aperture changes a sharpening angle of said apparatus.

28. (Previously presented) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 27, wherein said first and second apertures are located within a top portion of at least one of the first and second clamp members.

29. (Previously presented) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 27 wherein said first and second apertures are located within a side portion of at least one of the first and second clamp members.

30. (Previously presented) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 27, wherein the guide rod is coupled to one of said first and second apertures via a swivel block to facilitate foldability of the apparatus.

31. (Previously presented) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 27, wherein the guide rod is coupled to one of said first and second apertures via a slot in a block to facilitate infinite adjustment of the guide rod along a length of at least one of the first and second clamp members.

32. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 27, wherein the guide rod has an infinitely adjustable height.

33. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 27, wherein the guide rod includes an integral guide loop.

34. (Original) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 27, wherein the guide rod includes an infinitely adjustable guide loop.

35. (Currently amended) A knife sharpener apparatus comprising a clamping mechanism operable to secure a knife blade and at least one infinitely adjustable guide rod coupled to the clamping mechanism to adjust a sharpening angle of the knife sharpener apparatus, said apparatus being foldable wherein said guide rod is foldable towards said clamping mechanism ~~adjusting means for providing infinite sharpening angles for the apparatus;~~

~~and~~

~~means for facilitating compactability of the apparatus.~~

36. (New) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 4, said clamping mechanism comprising a first clamp member and a second clamp member, said clamp members being operable to secure a knife blade, said guide rod being held within a throat structure which does not directly contact said first or second clamp members.

37. (New) The knife sharpener apparatus of claim 8, said clamping mechanism comprising a first clamp

member and a second clamp member, said clamp members operable to secure a knife blade, said first clamp member defining a plane substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of said guide rod, said guide rod extending at least to said plane.